Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 MCE-00 PRS-01 /088 W

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R 091127Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8327

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 26200

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: MASS, FR, SO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FRENCH ARMS PROVISION TO SOMALIA

REFS: A. STATE 215404 B. PARIS 21427

QUAI HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD US THAT THE GOF WAS NOT PROCEEDING WITH ANY RPT ANY ARMS DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA, BUT ON SEPTEMBER 7 THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA GUEGUINOU GAVE US MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT FRENCH POSITION. GUEGUINOU SAID THAT WHILE THERE WERE NO ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARMS DELIVERIES, THE GOF POSITION WAS NOT SO FIRM AS HAD BEEN REPORTED CONFIDENTIAL

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BY THE PRESS -- THE GOF HAS NOT MADE A FORMAL DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS. AS THE GOF HAD TOLD US EARLIER (REF B), THERE HAD BEEN AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ARMS WITH SAUDI ARABIA PAYING FOR THEM. THERE HAD BEEN A DISPUTE OVER THE TERMS OF PAYMENT AND THE MODE AND PAYMENT OF TRANSPORT, AND THE SOMALIS HAD JUST NOT RESUMED THE

CONVERSATIONS WITH FRANCE. HENCE, UNLIKE THE US, THE GOF HAS NOT FORMALLY TURNED DOWN THE SOMALI REQUEST AND SET CONDITIONS FOR ITS RENEWAL (SUCH AS TERMINATION OF OGADEN HOSTILITIES). THE GOF IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE OGADEN AND A POSSIBLE SOMALI THREAT TO DJIBOUTI, BUT IT WOULD REVIEW ITS EARLIER DECISION IN PRINCIPLE ONLY IF SOMALIA RETURNED TO THE ARMS DISCUSSIONS WITH AN ACCEPTANCE OF GOF TERMS. GOF WOULD THEN DECIDE IN THE LIGHT OF THE OVERALL SITUATION.

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